Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 06719 091028Z ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 EB-07 COME-00 /068 W

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R 090859Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7549 TREASURY DEPT WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 6719

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, JA

SUBJECT: REACTION TO BLUMENTHAL SPEECH TO JAPAN SOCIETY

1. SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL'S MAY 4 SPEECH TO JAPAN SOCIETY HAS DRAWN RELATIVELY MUTED REACTION IN JAPAN WHERE ATTENTION HAS LARGELY BEEN FOCUSED ON LONDON SUMMIT CONFERENCE. IN ADDITION TO PAGE 1 COVERAGE IN FRIDAY, MAY 6 EVENING EDITIONS OF NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN (LEADING ECONOMIC JOURNAL) AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASAHI EVENING NEWS, THERE WERE SECOND-PAGE LEAD ARTICLES IN JAPANESE LANGUAGE ASAHI AND MAINICHI AS WELL AS BRIEF ITEMS IN LOCAL SANKEI AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE MAINICHI DAILY NEWS.

2. ASAHI EVENING NEWS ARTICLE CONTAINED EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS
ON DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS FROM BLUMENTHAL SPEECH BUT ONLY SUMMARIIZED
SECRETARY'S COMMENTS CONCERNING US GOVT'S HOPE THAT JAPAN WILL
MEET ANNOUNCEDFY 1977 REAL GROWTH AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OBJECTIVES.
SECRETARY'S EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO FY 1977 CURRENT ACCOUNT
TARGET WAS NOT REPORTED, BUT ARTICLE DID HIGHLIGHT
SECRETARY'S CALL FOR JAPAN TO INCREASE IMPORTS OF
MANUFACTURES FROM LDC'S.

3. NIHON KEIZAI ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTED BLUMENTHAL REFERENCES TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ATTENTION BEING PAID TO JAPAN'S RECENT
CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUSES AND DESCRIBED SECRETARY AS "CRITICAL
OF JAPAN'S CHEAP YEN POLICY." NIHON KEIZAI ARTICLE ALSO
DESCRIBED TONE OF BLUMENTHAL SPEECH AS "FIRM AND
FORTHRIGHT," AND SUGGESTED THIS WAS INDICATIVE OF
POSTURE U.S. LIKELY TO TAKE WITH JAPAN IN BILATERAL
TALKS AT LONDON.

4. EMBASSY TRANSLATIONS OF NIHON KEIZAI ARTICLE AND COPIES OF ENGISH LANGUAGE ARTICLES BEING POUCHED TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT. SHOESMITH

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Subject: REACTION TO BLUMENTHAL SPEECH TO JAPAN SOCIETY TAGS: EFIN, JA, JAPAN SOCIETY, (BLUMENTHAL, W MICHAEL)
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